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THE
UNITED STATES

**National
Arboretum,**

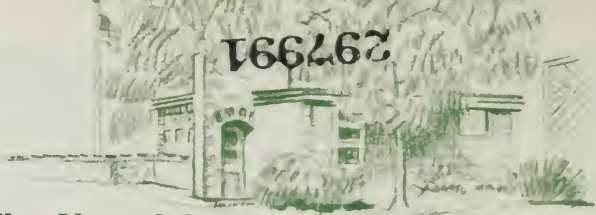
Washington, D.C.

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CURRENT SERIAL REPORT

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE • PA-309



The United States National Arboretum

Activities of the United States National Arboretum, Washington, D.C., are concerned primarily with educating the public regarding trees and shrubs, and conducting research on these plants.

In keeping with the educational aims, many varieties of trees and shrubs are being assembled and labeled for public display.

Research on woody plants emphasizes the development of superior forms that will grow in various climatic zones in the United States. A herbarium containing 470,000 dried plants is maintained for technical reference.

The Arboretum was established by act of Congress on March 4, 1927. It is administered by the Secretary of Agriculture through the Crops Research Division of the Agricultural Research Service. An advisory committee, composed of public-spirited citizens and representatives of interested organizations, assists the Secretary in developing the Arboretum and its program. This program is national in scope.

The Arboretum's location also adds to its national character. It is in an intermediate climatic zone, which makes possible the growing of trees and shrubs from a relatively wide range of climatic situations.



The Arboretum Plantings

Plants are arranged in different combinations throughout the Arboretum. Nine miles of paved roads provide access to the principal plant groups. These groups are indicated on the map (inside).

In direct view of the M Street entrance is the site of the planned 30-acre "synoptic" garden, which will contain representatives of all the plantings in the Arboretum.

In the Arboretum are single-genus groupings of hollies, crabapples, and azaleas. Simple and mixed plantings are grouped for landscape effect. Other plantings are grouped for use as ground covers and bank covers. Plants in the Morrison Azalea Garden are grouped in a formal arrangement.

Plant groups of unusual interest include the azalea plantings, which are among the most extensive in the Nation; the collection of Oriental plants

in the Cryptomeria Valley of the Garden Club of America; the dogwood planting of the Woman's National Farm and Garden Association; and Fern Valley, sponsored by the National Capital Garden Club League and other organizations.

Seasonal Highlights

LATE MARCH-EARLY APRIL.—The early leaf greens, flowers of camellias, the first pears, magnolias, and early bulbs which have been naturalized in considerable quantity.

MID-APRIL.—Quince, magnolias, the earlier azaleas and rhododendrons, daffodils, and the flowering cherries and crabapples.

LATE APRIL AND MAY.—The main mass of azaleas, flowering dogwood, and the later crabapples are followed by native azaleas, mountain-laurel, the huge blooms of the elephant-ear magnolia and peonies.

JUNE-AUGUST.—Daylilies are followed by crape myrtles and hibiscus. Scattered shrubs bloom throughout the summer.

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER.—Fall-flowering *Lycoris* and *Sternbergia*, and massed fruits of crabapples, firethorns, and a host of berried shrubs. Fall display begins in mid-September and continues through October, when tree foliage exhibits its spectacular change in color. This color change is highlighted by the rich yellows of tulip poplar and hickory, and the reds and bronzes of the gums and dogwoods that are abundantly scattered throughout the native woodlands. Through October and much of November, fall-blooming camellias provide the last flower show of the year.

ALL SEASON.—Fern Valley provides interest throughout the growing season.



Rules for Visitors

The following regulations are necessary for the protection and functioning of the Arboretum:

- Visitors enter the Arboretum at their own risk.
- The vehicle speed limit is 15 miles per hour. Temporary parking is allowed on all blacktop roadways.
- Pets must be kept on leash.
- Children under 16 years of age must be accompanied by a parent or other responsible adult.
- All plants, fish, and wildlife are protected. Plant labels are not to be removed.
- Lunching or picnicking is not permitted.
- Please use receptacles for litter.
- The building of fires is prohibited. Visitors are requested to be especially careful during dry periods in disposing of cigars, cigarettes, and matches.
- Do not pick the flowers.

Two comfort stations are located near areas 2 and 15. Rain shelters are provided in areas 5 and 14 and drinking fountains in areas 2, 3, 15, and 18.



Guide Service

Guide service is not regularly maintained; organized groups requiring the services of a guide should make arrangements for this service well in advance of the proposed visiting date.

Visiting Hours

The Arboretum is open every day of the year except Christmas. The visiting hours are as follows:

APRIL through OCTOBER

Monday through Friday—8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday—10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

NOVEMBER through MARCH

Monday through Friday—8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday—10 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Items of Special Interest

LOCATION

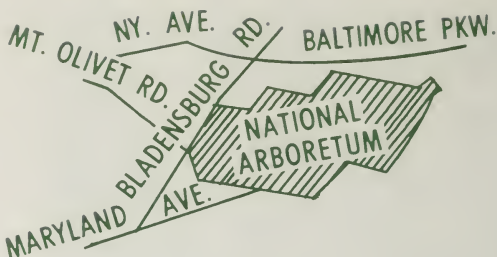
1. Information Center
2. Rest rooms, drinking fountain
3. Morrison Azalea Garden, drinking fountain
4. Azalea Hillside
5. Azalea Valley, rain shelter
6. Viburnum
7. Boxwoods, Daylilies, Peonies
8. Rhododendrons

LOCATION

9. Administration Building
10. Research plots
11. Gotelli Dwarf Conifer Collection
12. Dawn Redwood
13. Dogwood
14. Rain shelter
15. Rest rooms, drinking fountain
16. Camellias

LOCATION

17. Gazebo
18. Holly Walk, drinking fountain
19. Crabapple
20. Baldcypress
21. Fern Valley
22. Touch-and-See Nature Trail



Location of the Arboretum

The Arboretum occupies 415 acres in the northeast section of the District of Columbia. It is bounded on the west by Bladensburg Road (U.S. Route 50), on the north by the Baltimore Parkway, and the south by M Street. The main (M Street) gate and visitors' entrance is just east of the point where Maryland Avenue terminates at M Street. (See insert map inside.)



How to Reach the Arboretum

CARS OR TAXICABS.—From downtown Washington, take Maryland Avenue northeast from the Capitol to M Street, and turn east on M Street to reach the main gate. The Arboretum can also be reached by way of Bladensburg Road (U.S. Route 50) by turning onto R Street. (See insert map, inside, for routes.)

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION.—From central Washington, take bus No. 42 to Thirteenth and D Streets Northeast; then change to bus B-2, "Mt. Rainier," to intersection of Bladensburg Road and R Street. Walk east on R Street 300 yards to the R Street gate.

*For further information apply
at the office of, or write or call*

U.S. National Arboretum
Washington, D.C. 20250
Phone: 399-5400

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